

BASED ON THE HIT VIDEO GAME!

Suikoden™

幻想水滸伝



Suikoden III: The Successor of Fate :: Aki Shimizu

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Suikoden™

幻想水滸伝

During the fight between Yuber and Geddoe, Hugo takes hold of the True Fire Rune, which gives him exceptional power and transforms him into the Flame Champion. As rumors circulate that the Flame Champion will rekindle everyone's fighting spirit, the Karayan and Harmonian armies converge on the battlefield. Will Hugo be able to turn the tide of war?



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Suikoden

幻想水滸伝



.....successor of fate.....

Vol.5

by Aki Shimizu



HAMBURG // LONDON // LOS ANGELES // TOKYO



Story It's far...

The war between the Six Clans of the Grasslands and the Zexen Commonwealth dragged on far longer than either side expected. Tired of the seemingly pointless conflict, both parties sought a truce.

Lucia, chief of the Karaya Clan, sent her son Hugo to Vinay Del Zexay, while the Zexens sent Knight Captain Chris Lightfellow (a.k.a. the Silver Maiden) to the Grasslands. Almost immediately after the truce declarations, both sides appeared to be betrayed by their former enemies. The Lizard Clan reported that their leader had been secretly murdered by the Zexens, while Chris Lightfellow heard reports of the Grasslanders ambushing her forces.

Reluctantly, the Silver Maiden agreed to let her forces set fire to the Karaya village in order to create an escape route for her troops. While the Karaya village burned out of control, Hugo, his best friend Lulu and the Duck Clan warrior Sgt. Joe returned and discovered Lady Chris in the midst of the chaos.


Enraged, young Lulu attacked Chris and—without thinking—the Knight Captain killed Lulu on the spot. Realizing their vulnerability, Sgt. Joe prevented Hugo from attacking Lady Chris, and, in return, Chris spared both of their lives.

Hugo and Sgt. Joe eventually found the surviving members of the Karaya Clan taking refuge in the caves of the Lizard Clan. Shortly after Hugo bravely faced the awful task of telling Lulu's mother about her son's murder, he snuck away to seek his vengeance.

Aila and Jimba are two more Karaya warriors who are currently separated from their people. At the time of the attack, Aila was with Geddoe's visiting group of Harmonian mercenaries (who were looking for Jimba), but they were too far from the village and too few in number to be of any help. Rather than regroup with her people, Aila decided to accompany Geddoe in order to somehow avenge the destruction of her home.

Though physically unharmed by the battle, Lady Chris found herself mentally exhausted and plagued by guilty dreams of the recent massacre. An orphan, Chris lost her father to the flames of war at a young age, and she became a knight to honor his memory. Unfortunately, Chris realized that warfare was forcing her to ruin families the same way her own was wrecked...that the blood of all those she'd slain had tarnished the hands of the Silver Maiden...and that she could no longer remember her father's face.

Attempting to regain her composure, Chris joined the knight Percival for a festival in his hometown of Ilkay, but the town soon came under attack by the Grasslanders. Surrounded by Grasslanders, Chris held her own in a one-on-one battle against Lucia. Before the battle could turn against her, Nash Clovis (a mysterious man who warned Chris of the impending attack) saved her by pitching both of them off a cliff and into a river.



Chris' confrontations with Grasslanders were far from over, as she and Nash ended up at Budehuc castle, which is owned by Sir Thomas...who was playing host to Hugo! Though Hugo attacked from behind, Chris quickly got the upper hand. Chris avoided killing Hugo, but her young opponent would not stop attacking her until Sir Thomas broke up the fight.

After the battle, Chris left her fellow knights to accompany Nash Clovis on a quest to find her father. According to Nash, Wyatt Lightfellow is not only alive, he's also a "Fire Bringer"—a person in possession of a True Rune that grants him incredible powers and longevity. Nash contends that Chris' father is one of the two men who were always at the side of the Flame Champion, the legendary hero who used the power of the True Fire Rune to end the war between the Grasslands and Holy Harmonia.

Soon after Lady Chris departed, a private army from a nearby council appeared at Budehuc castle to take Hugo into custody. With the help of Sir Thomas and his staff, Hugo made a clean getaway, only to discover that Harmonia had invaded the Grasslands and conquered the village of Safir. Hugo made his way to the village of the Duck Clan, where he met Hallee and Mua, two knights from the Grasslands territory of Kamaro. To save their home, the two men are on a quest to locate the Flame Champion, whom they've heard is currently in Chisha. Realizing the compatibility of their missions, Hugo, Hallee and Mua agreed to travel together.

Seemingly unbeknownst to most of the Zexens or Grasslanders, Chris' father Wyatt Lightfellow and Karaya warrior Jimha are one and the same person. Possessing the True Water Rune, Wyatt/Jimha is also a friend and fellow "Fire Bringer" of Geddoe, who wields the True Lightning Rune. Geddoe's secret possession of the True Lightning Rune was revealed to his allies and enemies alike when he recently used it in battle against an agent of the mysterious Masked Bishop of Holy Harmonia. Despite the revelation, Geddoe's group decided to stay together, though the consequences of the Masked Bishop's knowledge of Geddoe's secret are yet to be known.

With the expiration of the 50-year treaty that maintained the truce between Holy Harmonia and the Grasslands, forces from both sides converged on the Grasslands village known as Chisha. Though vastly outnumbered, the Grasslanders managed to repel the Harmonian attack, thanks to the ingenious stratagems of Caesar Silverberg.

Reinforcements arrived, led by Lucia, whose happy reunion with Hugo was cut short by aged Sana's plan to impart the True Fire Rune to Hugo. Sana told Hugo the previous Flame Champion threw away the power of the Rune and, over the years, grew old and died. Before Hugo could decide if he could accept the power of the Flame Champion, Geddoe appeared to try to stop Hugo from taking the Rune...and Yuber and Sarah appeared to take it for themselves!



HUGO,
DON'T!!

BUT
THEY'RE
--!

STOP!!
THAT RUNE
SHOULDN'T
--!!

QUICKLY!
GO AND
GET THE
TRUE
FIRE
RUNE!!





HMPH...
WHAT NERVE!



I KNOW
THAT,
SARAH!



YUBER,
YOU MUSTN'T
KILL HIM
JUST
YET.



YOU
CAN'T
POSSIBLY
BE SIDING
WITH THE
HARMO-
NIAN
ARMY?!

WHY
ARE YOU
PEOPLE
AFTER
THE
RUNES?!

IF HE
DIES, WE
COULD
LOSE
THE TRUE
LIGHTNING
RUNE
HE'S
CARRYING.

FILLED WITH
THE POWER
OF THE
"SWORD"
AND
"SHIELD,"
THESE 27
RUNES
BECAME THE
ORIGINS OF
THE POWERS
THAT NOW
FLOOD THE
WORLD.

ABOUT
THE FIGHT
BETWEEN
THE
"SWORD"
AND THE
"SHIELD"
BORN OF
THE TEAR
SHED
BY THE
"DARKNESS"

THE
WORLD
HAS TOO
LONG
BEEN
RULED BY
ORDER.
WE NEED
THE
RUNES
TO DRAW
EVERY-
THING
BACK INTO
CHAOS.



?!
WHAT
THE HELL
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?!



THE
RUNE
THAT
YOU
CARRY
IS ONE
OF
THOSE

ALSO
FORGED
IN THAT
BATTLE
WERE THE
"27 TRUE
RUNES..."

SURELY
YOU'VE
HEARD THE
"CREATION
MYTH?"





THERE'S
ONE MORE
THING
WE'VE
INHERITED
FROM THE
SWORD AND
SHIELD...

ONLY
THROUGH THE
STRUGGLE
BETWEEN THE
SWORD OF
ORDER AND
THE SHIELD OF
CHAOS CAN
THE WORLD
MAINTAIN ITS
BALANCE.

GRADUALLY,
THIS
BALANCE
HAS BEEN
DESTROYED,
AND NOW
ORDER HAS
TAKEN HOLD
OF THE
WORLD.



...THE
WILL
FOR
UNENDING
STRUG-
GLE."



CHAOS?
ORDER?



.....



THOSE OF
US WHO
LINE UP
ON THE
SIDE OF
CHAOS
CANNOT
JUST
SIMPLY SIT
BY AND
WATCH.



BESIDES,
THAT'S
YOUR
AGENDA;
OURS IS
QUITE
DIFFERENT.

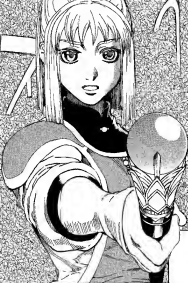
YOU
TALK
TOO
MUCH,
YUBER.



IT'S
ENOUGH
FOR YOU
JUST TO
BE BY
HIS SIDE,
ISN'T IT?



HAH!



FOR WHAT
HE'S
TRYING TO
ACCOMPLISH,
I WOULD
GIVE
WHATEVER
I HAD.





JUST
WATCH
FROM
THERE,
AND
DON'T
MOVE!

YOU
DON'T
WANT
THIS OLD
LADY
TO DIE.
NOW,
DO YOU,
YOUNG
MAN?



SANA!!



B-BUT
--!

DON'T...
WORRY
ABOUT ME!
JUST GET
THE RUNE!
NOW!



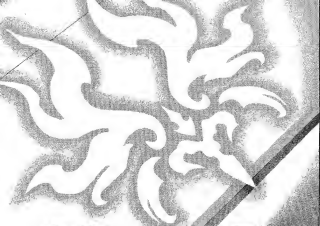
?!



LET IT
GO,
SANA!



HUGO!
SAVE THE...
GRASSLANDS
--!!



...THAT
I SAW
IN THE
GHISHA
VILLAGE.

THAT'S...
THE TRUE
RUNE OF
FIRE...



WHAT
ARE YOU
LOOKING
AT?

HUGO,
DON'T
--!!











OUT



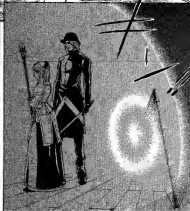
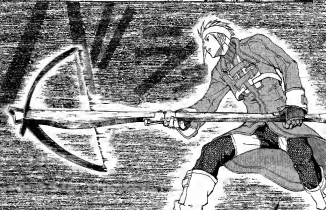




SARAH!!
WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?









?



YOU
BASTARD
--!



TAKE CARE
NOT TO BE
TAKEN IN.

...THAT
RUNE
HOLDS
GREAT
POWER...
BUT ITS
WILL CAN
SHAKE YOU
TO YOUR
CORE.



THEY
VANISHED
--!





HUGO!
WHAT'S
WRONG?!



GEDDOS!
ARE YOU
ALL
RIGHT?!



I'LL BE
OKAY--
TAKE CARE
OF HUGO...



S
W
E
E
T

MY...
H-HEAD...



THE
CHISHA
VILLAGE
...

I'VE
GOT
TO GET
BACK
THERE...

THE
WILL...
OF THE
DUNE...?

FLAME
CHAMPION...

UNH...
THE
CH--







I WILL HAVE
TO USE ITS
POWER TO
FIGHT THE
HARMONIANS.

IT
MUST
BE USED
AFTER
ALL...

...THE
POWER OF
THE TRUE
FLAME
RUNE...



GEDDOE,
IT
LOOKS
LIKE
I WAS
BEING
NAIVE,
AFTER
ALL.



--IN
SUGGUMB-
ING TO THE
CURSE OF
THE RUNE.

THERE'S
NO NEED
FOR YOU TO
JOIN ME--



YOU HEARD
ME--
I MUST
...PROTECT
...THE
GRASSLANDS...



HUGO!
YOU'RE
AWAKE!



JUST
WHO ARE
THESE
PEOPLE?



THAT
TWO-
TWO!

SO,
YOU'RE
UP?



--ALL ABOUT YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE FLAME CHAMPION.

PERHAPS IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU TOLD US--



WHAT'S GEDDOE MIXED UP IN?

THAT'S RIGHT! AS LONG AS YOU'RE MIXING OTHERS UP IN THIS, YOU MIGHT AS WELL INCLUDE US.



RIGHT.



THIS IS GOING TO BE A LONG STORY...



.....



WE'RE YOUR FRIENDS, RIGHT, BOSS? WHEN YOU'RE HURTING, WE WANT TO KNOW.

MAYBE WE CAN HELP EACH OTHER OUT.

HOW I GOT IT
IS OF MYSTERY
AND REMAINS

IT WAS
75 YEARS
AGO THAT I
RECEIVED THE
TRUE RUNE
OF LIGHTNING.
FINALLY, I
BELIEVE

LOOKING BACK
AT IT NOW, IT
JUST SEEMS LIKE
AN ACCIDENT OF
YOUTH.

WE JOINED
FORCES, AS
TWO WHO
BOTH CARRIED
TRUE RUNES--

ALTHOUGH HE'D
BEEN A LEADER
IN BATTLES
AGAINST THE
GREAT HARMONIAN
FORCES, HE
SEEMED TO BE
OVERWHELMED
BY THE POWER
OF THE RUNE
WHICH COULD DO
NOTHING BUT
EXPLODE.

I MET HIM
THE ONE YOU
ALL CALL
THE "FLAME
CHAMPION"
SEVERAL YEARS
LATER.

NOT SO
MUCH "A
COMRADES"
BUT AS
THOSE
STROUGLED
WITH THE
SAME
DREAMS

--HE
YOWED TO
EXPLORE
THE RUNES'
POWER AND
SEARN TO
MASTER IT.

--AND
WHO WERE
OVERWHELMED
BY THEIR
POWER--





HAVING THE
POWER OF
A RUNE BUT
NO USE FOR
IT, PERHAPS
I ENVIED
SOMEONE
WHO HAD
SUCH A
PURPOSE.

MAYBE I WAS
CURIOUS TO
SEE HOW
HIS DESIRES
COULD BE
CHANGED BY
THE POWER OF
THE RUNES.

I STILL DON'T
KNOW WHY
I JOINED
FORCES WITH
SOMEONE
WHO
WOULD DO
ANYTHING TO
PROTECT THE
GRASSLANDS



HE
RESPONDED
WITHOUT A
MOMENT'S
PAUSE...



I
ASKED
HIM
ONCE...

...HOW CAN
YOU GO
TO THESE
LENGTHS
FOR PEOPLE
WHO ARE
TOTAL
STRANGERS
TO YOU?

WITH ALL THIS
GREAT POWER
AND FATE IN
HIS HANDS,
HE REMAINED
TRUE TO HIS
CAUSE—
PROTECTING
THE PEOPLE
OF THE
GRASSLANDS.



YET,
NO MATTER
HOW MUCH
HE USED
THE POWER
OF THE
RUNE, HE
DIDN'T
CHANGE, AT
ALL.



I MARVELED
AT HOW
HE COULD
DESCRIBE
SOMETHING
WITH SUCH
SIMPLICITY.



...WHY IS
IT STRANGE
TO WANT TO
FIGHT FOR
THE SAKE OF
THE LAND
THAT BORE
YOU AND THE
PEOPLE WHO
RAISED YOU?



THAT
STRAIGHT-
FORWARDNESS,
THAT POSITIVE
OUTLOOK ON
LIFE—
THAT'S HOW HE
GOT SO MANY
PEOPLE TO
FOLLOW HIM.



...DEEP
INSIDE
HIMSELF,
HE WAS
SUFFERING.

BUT,
THAT WAS
JUST
ON THE
OUTSIDE.





HUGO,
AFTER
YOU GOT
THE RUNE,
YOU SAW
SOMETHING
RIGHT?



OH--
YES, I
HAD A DREAM...

HE STAYED
UPBEAT SO
THAT THOSE
AROUND HIM
WOULDN'T
SENSE THE
TRUTH, BUT...
HE WAS
ALWAYS
SUFFERING
UNDER THE
BURDEN OF
THE RUNE.



YOU'LL
GET A
TASTE OF
THIS FROM
NOW ON,
YOURSELF.

HUGO,
YOU
SHOULD
LISTEN
UP,



YOU WILL
ALSO BE
DRAWN
INTO THE
SUFFERING
OF THOSE
MEMORIES.

THAT
WAS NO
DREAM.
THOSE ARE
MEMORIES
THAT THE
RUNE HOLDS...

...MEMORIES
OF THOSE
WHO HAVE
HELD THE
RUNE IN
THE PAST--
SOMETIMES
EVEN
VISIONS
OF THE
FUTURE,
TOO.



NO, NOT
AT ALL;
THEY ARE
NOTHING
MORE THAN
ILLUSIONS.



...ARE
THEY ALL
ABOUT
SUFFER-
ING?

THE
MEMORIES
OF THE
RUNE...



THE REAL
SUFFERING
IS THAT THE
RUNE ITSELF
MAY HOLD
A DIFFERENT
WILL THAN
ITS BEARER.



WILL?

THESE FIVE
POWERS
ARE FORCES
THAT MOVE
THE WORLD,
SHAPING THE
NATURAL
WORLD OF
SEASONS AND
CALAMITIES
BY
CONSTANTLY
WORKING
WITH AND
STRUGGLING
AGAINST
EACH
OTHER.

IN OTHER
WORDS,
THE WORLD
MAINTAINS
ITS PRESENT
STATE BY THE
BALANCE OF
THESE FIVE
POWERS.

IT IS
ONE OF
THE FIVE
POWERS
THAT
GOVERN
OUR
WORLD.

THE FIVE
POWERS
ARE GREAT
FORCES--
SYMBOL-
IZED BY
WIND, FIRE,
EARTH,
WATER, AND
LIGHTNING.

THE
SYMBOLS
OF THESE
"PROPERTIES"
ARE THE FIVE
TRUE RUNES.
THE PURE
POWER OF
EACH OF THE
FIVE POWERS
FLOWS
THROUGH
EACH RUNE,
SEEKING
TO IMPRINT
ITSELF ONTO
THE WORLD
AND NATURE.

WHILE THE
FORCES DON'T
ACTUALLY
HAVE ONE,
EACH APPEARS
TO HAVE ITS
OWN "WILL"--
MERELY BY
DISPLAYING ITS
OWN POWERS
AND BY
CONTROLLING
OTHER
FORCES.

HOWEVER,
THESE
FIVE
FORCES
ALSO
EXIST
AS PURE
POWER

IT'S VERY
INTENT
IS TO
DISRUPT
THE
BALANCE
OF THE
WORLD.

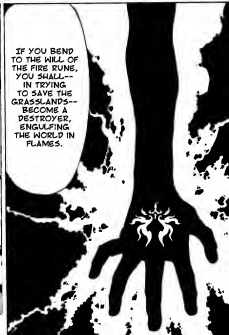
FROM NOW
ON, THE
RUNE THAT
YOU HOLD
WILL--BY
ANY AND
ALL MEANS
POSSIBLE--
TRY TO
FORCE YOU
TO USE THE
"FLAME"
POWER.



SO,
WHAT
ARE YOU
SAYING?



IF YOU BEND
TO THE WILL OF
THE FIRE RUNE,
YOU SHALL--
IN TRYING
TO SAVE THE
GRASSLANDS--
BECOME A
DESTROYER,
ENGULFING
THE WORLD IN
FLAMES.

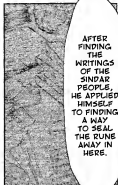






IS THERE NO WAY TO...
RELEASE HIM FROM THIS
TERRIBLE BURDEN,
GEDDOE?





AFTER FINDING THE WRITINGS OF THE SINDAR PEOPLE, HE APPLIED HIMSELF TO FINDING A WAY TO SEAL THE RUNE AWAY IN HERE.



AFTER THE FIGHTING WITH THE HARMONIANS ENDED, THE FLAME CHAMPION SECRETLY THOUGHT OF A WAY TO SEAL UP THE POWER OF THE RUNE SO THAT IT COULDN'T ROAM THE WORLD UNCHECKED.

THIS IS THE PLACE WHERE HE CAME UP WITH A WAY TO CONTAIN ITS POWER AND SEAL IT IN.

NOW THAT HE'S GONE, I KNOW OF NO ONE ELSE WHO KNOWS HOW TO RELEASE THE RUNE.

THE WRITINGS THAT HE PORED THROUGH ARE ALSO MISSING.





--YOU
WILL ALSO
SPEND THE
REST OF
YOUR LIFE
FIGHTING A
POWERFUL
ENEMY ON
THE INSIDE.

AND
SO,
THAT IS
WHY--

--FROM NOW
ON, EVEN
AS YOU
FIGHT THE
HARMONIANS,
YOUR ENEMY
ON THE
OUTSIDE--



TO DO SO,
YOU WILL
HAVE TO
ENDURE
ALL OF THIS
SUFFERING.

CAN
YOU DO
THIS?

HAVING
TAKEN ON
THE TRUE
FIRE RUNE,
YOU NOW
HAVE NO
CHOICE BUT
TO INHERIT
THE TITLE
"FLAME
CHAMPION"
AND LEAD
THE GRASS-
LANDS.



THE
GUILT
WAS
THERE,
TOO.



SO, HE
WASN'T
JUST
SUFFERING
BECAUSE
OF ALL
THE
PEOPLE
HE KILLED
WITH THE
RUNE'S
POWER?

SUCH A...
TERRIBLE
...



HOW SAD
THAT HE
HAD TO
BEAR
ALL THAT
SUFFERING
HIMSELF.

HOW...
HOW
HORRIBLE.



OOOOO...

THE FACT THAT
HE BORE HIS
SUFFERING
BY HIMSELF
TO KEEP IT
FROM BEING
YOURS...THIS
MEANS THAT
HE LOVED YOU
VERY MUCH.



DON'T
BLAME
YOURSELF,
SANA



--TO FOLLOW
THE "FLAME
CHAMPION,"
WHO
KNEW OUR
SUFFERING
AND WHO
HAD A MUCH
GRANDER
FATE AND
MISSION, TO
THE VERY
LAST.



WE FELT
WE SHOULD
USE THE
POWER OF
OUR RUNES
TO HELP HIM
AND THOSE
WHO HE
WANTED TO
PROTECT.





HUGO, I
PLEDGE THIS
TO YOU,
THE NEW
SUCCESSOR
OF THE
TRUE FIRE
RUNE--YOU,
WHO HAVE
INHERITED
THE NAME
"FLAME
CHAMPION."

IN TIMES WHEN
YOU WISH TO
LASH OUT
AGAINST AN
ENEMY, I WILL
BECOME YOUR
ROD,
AND IN TIMES
WHEN YOU
NEED TO
PROTECT A
FRIEND, I WILL
BECOME YOUR
SHIELD.



YOU MUST
TAKE GREAT
CARE
NEVER TO
FORGET
THAT--FOR
WHEN YOU
DO, YOUR
DESTINY
WILL
BECOME A
CURSE.



THIS
FATE IS
OVERWHELM-
INGLY
CRUEL, BUT
YOU MUST
NEVER
FORGET...

...IT WAS
YOU,
YOURSELF,
WHO
CHOSE
THIS
DESTINY.

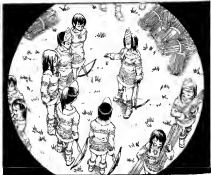


I
UNDER-
STAND.

I
WILL
BECOME
THE
"FLAME
CHAMPION."

I WILL
BECOME
SOMEONE
WORTHY
OF SUCH A
NAME.







HOW
DOES THE
HARMONIAN
ARMY LOOK,
SIR MUA?



--AS THOUGH
THEIR DEFEAT
TWO DAYS
AGO TOOK
QUITE A TOLL
ON THEM.



IT SEEMS
AS IF THEY
AREN'T
MOVING--



CAN'T WE
GO HOME
ALREADY?

Ma tea.

I'VE HAD
ENOUGH
OF THIS
WAR.

EVEN THOUGH
WE DUCKS ARE
WEAKER THAN
THE LIZARDS
AND KARAYANS,
EVEN AS
MERCENARIES,
WHAT MAKES
OUR NAME
SOAR IS OUR
ALERTNESS AND
OUR TENACITY!

RHETT!
WILDER!
WHAT
WOULD YOU
HOPE TO
ACCOM-
PLISH BY
THAT??

WELL,
NO
MATTER
WHAT
YOU SAY,
SGT.
JOE--

--IN
A
POT!

IDIOT
DUCKS
LIKE
YOU
ONLY
BE-
LONG--



WE DON'T
SEEM TO WANT TO
FIGHT.
WE JUST
SIT HERE,
WONDERING
IF THEY'VE
GIVEN UP
ON THE
INVASION.



--EVER
SINCE THE
GRASS-
LANDERS'
SIDE GOT
REINFORCED,
WE HAVEN'T
BUGGED,
EITHER.





BUT WHO KNOWS WHEN THEY'LL MAKE THEIR MOVES?

WE'VE ASKED SURROUNDING COUNTRIES FOR HELP, STARTING WITH KAMARO...

THEY MUST ALSO BE STRUGGLING WITH WHAT TO DO NEXT.

ACCORDING TO THE SCOUTS' INFORMATION, THE MAIN FORCE OF THE ENEMY HAS STOPPED MOVING ABOUT 5 LEAGUES AWAY.



THIS IS SHAPING UP INTO QUITE THE BATTLE.



WE HAVE
4,000 TROOPS
TO FACE THEIR
NUMBERS
OF ALMOST
10,000. THEIR
LEBUQUE
TROOPS
ARE ALSO
FORMIDABLE.

REGARD-
LESS OF
ITS SIZE,
IT WILL
NOT BE
A SIMPLE
BATTLE.



TO US
LIZARDS,
IT
MATTERS
LITTLE
HOW
LARGE A
BATTLE
IS.

WE
ALWAYS
DISPLAY
OUR
FIERCE
BRAVERY.



OUTSIDERS
AREN'T
ALLOWED
IN THE
CHIEFTAINS'
MEETING.
HUMP

*How could they know
we're not... that's almost
strategy?*



WE'LL BE
ALL
RIGHT--
AS LONG
AS THE
MARMO-
NUNS
DON'T MAKE
A MOVE.



DAMN...
CAN'T
HEAR SO
HELL...





--AT
NIGHT.

FROM HERE,
WE'LL
ATTACK
THE ENEMY
BASE--



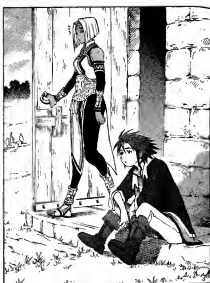
--AND THE
GROUND
TROOPS
WILL BE
VULNER-
ABLE TO
ATTACK.

THE
INSECTS
CAN'T
SEE AT
NIGHT--



!







BUT--BUT--
THE MOST
OBVIOUS
THING SUCH
A LARGE
ARMY WOUL'D
DEFEND
AGAINST
WOUL'D
BE NIGHT
ATTACKS!

ALSO--
JUST
BECAUSE THE
INSECTS HAVE
HEEK NIGHT
VISION DOESN'T
MEAN THE
ENEMY HAIN'T
FIGURED OUT
WAYS TO DEAL
WITH THAT



THANKS.
BUT MIND
YOUR OWN
BUSINESS.



JUST
WATCH
AND YOU
SHALL SEE
OUR SKILL.



WHO CARES
WHAT
MEASURES
THEY HAVE
TAKEN?!
YOU ONLY
SAY THAT
BECAUSE YOU
ARE IGNORANT
OF THE TRUE
POWER OF THE
LIZARDS!



--BUT
THERE'S
NO GOOD
REASON FOR
US TO JUST
SIT HERE
FOREVER. WE
MUST GET
BACK QUICKLY
TO FINISH
OFF THE
IRONHEADS.

LISTEN.
I AM
GRATEFUL
TO YOU FOR
PROTECTING
OUR
COMRADES
IN
BATTLE--





APPLE...YOU
CAN'T TRUST
WHAT I SAY,
CAN YOU?



WHAT YOU
LACK MOST
IS AGE AND
EXPERIENCE--
BUT YOU
ALSO NEED TO
HAVE PEOPLE
WHO WILL
TAKE YOUR
COMMANDS.

A GREAT
STRATEGIST
NEEDS
GENERALS
WHO WILL
FOLLOW
HIM.



CASSAR,
I BELIEVE
THAT WHAT
YOU SAY
IS ALWAYS
CLOSE TO
THE ACTUAL
TRUTH.



GENER-
ALS TO
FOLLOW
ME? I
HAVE NONE.

AND HOW
AM I
SUPPOSED
TO FIND
THEM?



OF
ALL THE
SILVER-
BERGS,
YOUR
APPROACH
TO WAR IS
MOST LIKE
MASTER
MATHUR'S...
AND HE IS
ONE OF THE
GREATS.



TO A
STRATEGIST,
GENERALS ARE
THE SAME AS
DESTINY.

THAT'S
THE MOST
DIFFICULT
THING.

--OR
ELSE, WHY
WOULD
YOU HAVE
BEEN
GIVEN
SUCH
TALENT?

JUST
DON'T BE
IN SUCH A
HURRY.

I'M SURE
THERE
ARE
PEOPLE
SOME-
WHERE IN
THIS WIDE
WORLD
WHO
NEED
YOU--

hah
hah
DON'T BE
SO FULL
OF YOUR-
SELF!

hah
COULD
THERE BE
ANYONE IN
THIS WORLD
WHO WOULD
USE ME TO
ALL OF MY
POTENTIAL?









I...
BELIEVE
IN HIM.



I THINK THAT,
WITH THAT
SYMBOL,
THE FLAME
CHAMPION
WAS TELLING
US THAT HE
WAS HERE TO
HELP US!



THAT...
FLAME
THING?

YEAH.

HE DIDN'T
ATTACK THE
HARMONIAN
GROUPS.
SO, THAT
WAS REALLY
HIM?



DISCUSSION
OF THIS
SUBJECT IS
FORBIDDEN!

WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?!

FRANZ!



EAVES-
DROPPING
ON US
SO YOU
COULD BE A
TATTLETALE?



HMPH...
YOU LAG
DOG
TO THE
HARMO-
NIANS!



THEY'RE
JUST
TRYING TO
GET US
SHAKEN
UP!

THAT "FLAME"
INCIDENT
WAS A JUST
BATTLE TRICK
EMPLOYED BY
THE GRASS-
LANDERS!



SO,
COME
ON
NOW--
OPEN
YOUR
EYES!!

THERE IS
NO
FLAME
CHAMPION
!!



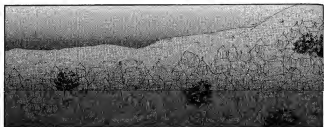
EVEN
YOU
MUST
REALIZE
THIS.

NO MATTER
HOW WE
MIGHT WISH
IT, WE CAN
NEVER BE
HARMONIANS.

FRANZ,
IT IS YOU
WHO
SHOULD
OPEN
YOUR
EYES.

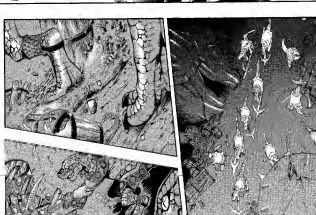
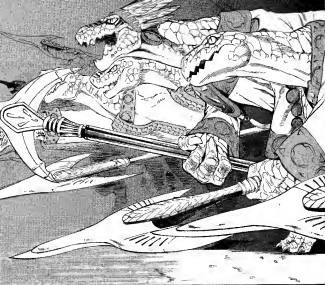


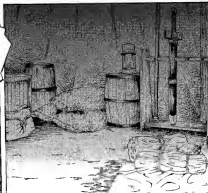
THERE IS NO...
FLAME CHAMPION...













LORD DUPU!
THIS IS
A--!



LORD DUPU,
SOME-
THING'S
WRONG--
THERE'S
NOT EVEN
A SHADON
OF AN
ENEMY!



NONE
HERE,
EITHER!!

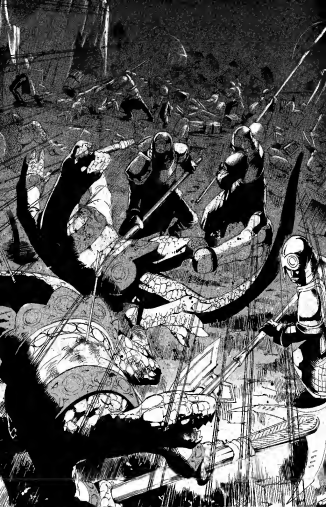
NO MATTER
WHERE
WE LOOK,
THEY'RE ALL
JUST EMPTY
SHELLS!

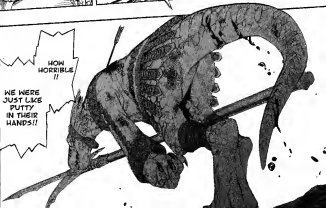


DAMN!
THEY WERE
EXPECTING
US!









HOW HORRIBLE !!

WE WERE JUST LIKE PUTTY IN THEIR HANDS!!



IT ALL
WENT
JUST AS
YOU'D SAID
IT WOULD.

WELL
DONE,
ALBERT!



YOU'RE
FAR TOO
MODEST.
ARE
ALL THE
SILVER-
BERGS
LIKE YOU?



A SIMPLE
TACTIC
LIKE THIS
WAS JUST
STANDARD
PRACTICE.

WE
LAUNCH
OUR
TROOPS
AT DAWN.
LET'S GET
GOING.







WHAT'LL
WE DO
ABOUT
THE
INSECT
TROOPS?



WE HAVE
NO CHOICE.
WE'LL
HAVE
TO USE
BOMBS AND
SMOKE—
LIKE
WE DID
BEFORE!



COUNTING
THE
REMAIN-
ING
LIZARDS,
WE HAVE
ALMOST
3,000...



HOW
MANY
TROOPS
DO WE
HAVE
RIGHT
NOW?



...TO FACE
A FORCE
OF MORE
THAN
THREE
TIMES
THAT
NUMBER.



QUICKLY,
PREPARE
OUR
TROOPS!

WITHOUT
A DOUBT,
THEY
WILL
ATTACK
US AT
DAWN!!



OUR UNEX-
PECTED FAILURE
IN THE NIGHT
ATTACK
HAS LEFT US
SHAKEN.

WILL IT
REALLY BE
ALL RIGHT?
THERE ARE
NO MORE
REINFORCE-
MENTS.



LUCIA,
ISN'T THE
FLAME
CHAMPION
HERE YET?

THERE'S
BEEN NO
WORD
FROM
SANA
AND THE
OTHERS.



WHERE
ARE
YOU,
HUGO?



YOU'RE
RIGHT.



LISTEN UP,
EVERYONE!



SHE'LL BE
RETURNING
TO CHISHA
ANY
MOMENT
NOW WITH
THE FLAME
CHAMPION!

WE GOT
WORD
FROM
SANA
JUST
NOW!



WHEN
THE
FLAME
CHAMPION
ARRIVES,
OUR
VICTORY
WILL BE
ASSURED!





DO ALL
YOU CAN
TO HOLD
OUT UNTIL
THEN!



HE'S
STILL
ALIVE?!



YOU
KNOW—WIM!
THE ONE WHO
DESTROYED
THE WHOLE
HARMONIAN
ARMY ALL
THOSE YEARS
AGO...

THE
FLAME
CHAM-
PION
—!



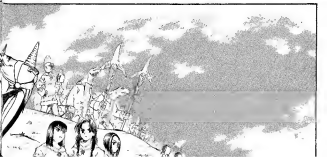
THE FLAME
CHAM-
PION'S
GOING TO
SAVE THE
GRASS-
LANDS
AGAIN!!

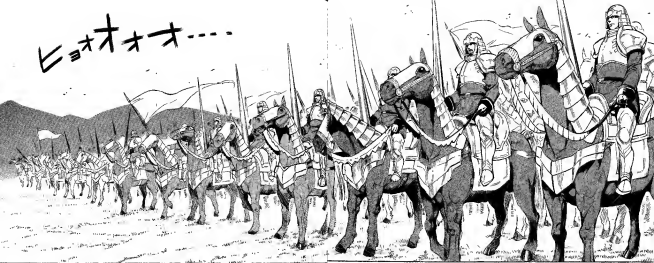


YES. WE
SHALL HAVE
THE FLAME
CHAMPION
WITH US
ONCE
MORE!

オオオオオオオオオオオオ







THEIR
BATTLE
FORMATION
IS
EXTREMELY
FORMIDABLE.
TO WIN
NOW
WOULD
BE
HARD...



SHP

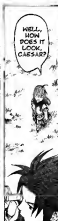


WE'RE
UP
AGAINST
A DIFFER-
ENT CLASS OF
SOLDIER
THIS
TIME.

ALSO—
THEY'RE
NOT
SENDING
THE INFANTRY
TROOPS IN
TO ATTACK
FIRST.
THEY'LL
PROBABLY
HAVE THEM
GUARD
THE REAR,
USING
GROUND
AND AIR
TROOPS
IN A
COMBINED
ATTACK.



AS I
FEARED,
THE
GRASS-
LANDERS
NOW HAVE
A VERY
SLIM
CHANCE OF
WINNING.



WELL,
HOW
DOES IT
LOOK,
CAESAR?



トオ!



I WOULD
LIKE TO
SPEAK
TO YOU,
BEFORE THE
BATTLE, ON
BEHALF OF
THE FLAME
CHAMPION!!

おお! 樹

WHERE
IS THE
HARMONIAN
GENERAL?!

I AM
LUCIA,
CHIEF
OF THE
KARAYA
CLAN!!





HOW,
JUST LIKE
THE OLD
DAYS. IS
THIS HOW
IT IS IN THE
GRASS-
LANDS?



OH
MY!



HOW
ABOUT
IT?!



THEIR
LEADER IS
COMING
OUT...









THAT NAME
MAKES ME
NOSTALGIC,
"SASARAI OF
HARMONIA"

THOUGH,
WHEN WE
FOUGHT ON
THE SAME
SIDE IN
HIGHLAND,
I WOULDN'T
HAVE
THOUGHT
EVEN A
BRAT LIKE
YOU WOULD
INVADE THE
SECOND
THE TRUCE
ENDED.

TAKE
NOTE! THE
HARMONIAN
BISHOP,
LORD
SASARAI,
IS ON HIS
WAY!!



THAT WAS
A VERY
PROPER
DECLARA-
TION
BEFORE A
BATTLE.



YES,
SIR!



HOW
DARE
YOU
...?!



IT'S ALL
RIGHT,
DIOS;
I'LL TAKE
IT FROM
HERE.



WHERE IS
THE FLAME
CHAMPION?

HOWEVER,
I WOULD
HAVE
PREFERRED
TO SPEAK
TO THE
FLAME
CHAMPION
DIRECTLY.



IF HE DOES,
WE'LL
WITHDRAW
OUR TROOPS.
WE'LL EVEN
LET THE
CRIME OF
PREPARING
FOR UN-
NECESSARY
WARFARE GO
UNPUNISHED.

YOU SEE?
THIS IS
DIFFERENT
FROM LAST
TIME. WE
WOULD LIKE
HIM TO COME
WITH US TO
HARMONIA
INSTEAD OF
MAKING THIS
UNNECESSARY
SACRIFICE.



WHAT'S MORE,
WE KNOW ALL
TOO WELL
THAT YOU ARE
DESPERATE
TO GET YOUR
HANDS ON
THE FLAME
CHAMPION.
THERE'S NO
WAY HE WOULD
EVER GIVE HIM
TO YOU!!

WHAT
ARE YOU
SAYING?
YOU'RE
THE ONES
WHO ARE
INVADING!!



WEAK OR STRONG, YOUR COUNTRYMEN WILL ALL BE SACRIFICED, AND IN THE END, TERMS SUCH AS "VICTORY" OR "DEFEAT" WILL BE IRRELEVANT.

NO MATTER WHAT YOUR REASONS—ALL WAR IS AN EMPTY THING.



SAVE YOUR LIES! WE'VE ALREADY MADE TOO MANY SACRIFICES!! WE WOULD NEVER HAND THE FLAME CHAMPION OVER TO THE LIKES OF YOU!!



I AM PREPARED TO WITHDRAW OUR TROOPS FROM HERE AND DRAW A NEW TRUCE—IF ONLY YOU WOULD UNDERSTAND THAT.

ALL WE'RE AFTER IS ONE SINGLE MAN—THE FLAME CHAMPION.



I SEE... SO THERE'S NO ROOM FOR NEGOTIATIONS?







--A
RUNE
OF TRUE
POWER,
JUST
LIKE SIR
WYATT'S...



THAT
PERSON
IS PRO-
TECTED
BY
GREAT
SPIRITS!!



YES,
THAT
POWER...
THAT'S
WHAT
YUN
SAYS--!
YES,
IT'S--

W
H
A
T
??



A TRUE
RUNE...



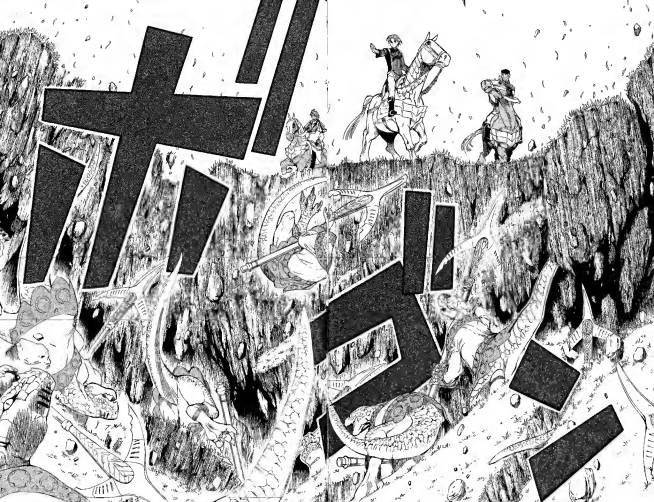
ウオオオオオオ

WE CAN'T
BACK DOWN
IN THE FACE
OF THE
ENEMY!

COME
ON!

HOLD
YOUR
RANKS!









SO HE'S
THE...
THE
BEARER
OF THE
TRUE
RUNE OF
EARTH?!



YES,
SIR.

I'LL
LEAVE
THE
REST
TO YOU,
PIOS.



YOU'VE
BEEN QUITE
THE SLAVE
PRYER TO
THIS BISHOP,
STRATEGIST.

WHICH
MEANS WE
CAN USE
THE INSECT
TROOPS
WITHOUT
CONCERN.

YES, YOU
JUST
CONFIRMED
THAT THE
FLAME
CHAMPION
ISN'T HERE.

YOU
THINK MY
MISSION
WILL END
HERE,
ALBERT?





IN FACT,
THAT
WOULD
APPEAR
TO BE
TRUE
BEYOND
A DOUBT.

RELATIONS
DON'T SEEM
TO BE
GOING WELL
BETWEEN
THE
CLANS--
FURTHER
PROOF THAT
THERE IS
NO FLAME
CHAMPION.

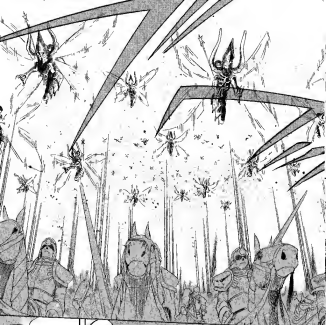
WE
ALSO
HAVE
LEARNED
THAT THE
GRASS-
LAND
TROOPS
AREN'T
IRONCLAD.



I'VE HAD TO
SHOUT SO
MUCH, I'VE
GOTTEN A
BIT THIRSTY.

I'LL
LEAVE THE
REMAINING
DETAILS
TO YOU.





AFTER
ALL...
WE MUST
PROVE IT
TO THE
INSECT
TROOPS.

I SEE...
HE WAS
DEMON-
STRATING
THAT THE
FLAME
CHAMPION
IS NOT
THERE.

DAMNIT--
HE HERE
TRICKED
BY THEM!

I
GUESS
HE REALLY
ISN'T
IN THE
CHISHA
AREA,
AFTER
ALL...

EVEN WITH
ALL THAT
TAUNTING,
THE FLAME
CHAMPION
WOULDN'T
SHOW HIS
FACE.



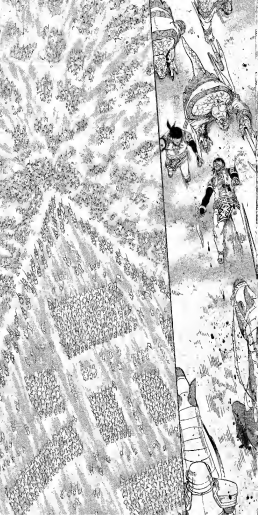




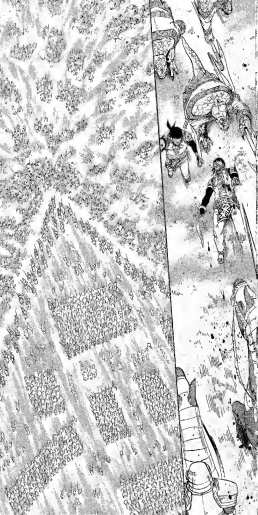




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THE
MAGICIANS
IN THE
REAR
RANKS
OF THE
HARMO-
NIANS,
THEY'RE
--!!

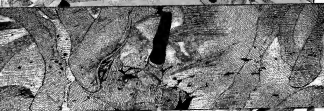
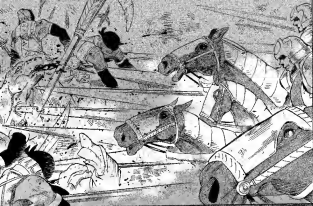


IT'S NO
GOOD!
THE
SMOKE IS
DISPERSING
IN THE
WIND.



YUIRI!
LOOK AT
THAT!







FALL
BACK,
AND
PROTECT
THE
CHISHA
VILLAGE
WITH
YOUR
LIVES!!

ARRGH!!
FALL
BACK!!



LUCIA!
IT'S NO USE!

SO THIS IS HOW
STRONG THE
HARMONIAN
ARMY IS.



LET THE
KARAYANS
AND
LIZARDS
BRING UP
THE REAR!



ALL
TROOPS,
FULL
RETREAT!!
ABANDON
CHISHA,
AND
RETREAT AS
FAR AS THE
DUCK CLAN
LANDS!!



DUCKS,
PLEASE
GO IN
FRONT TO
LEAD THE
VILLAGERS





THE VILLAGERS' LIVES ARE MORE IMPORTANT RIGHT NOW...



HUGO...



LUCIA!
WHAT WILL WE DO ABOUT HUGO AND THE OTHERS?!



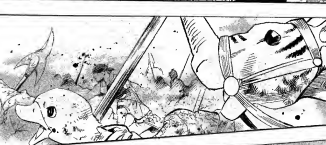
HUGO IS AN ADULT, KARAYAN WARRIOR!

I'M SURE HE CAN HELP PROTECT SANA AND THEN MEET UP WITH US AGAIN!!



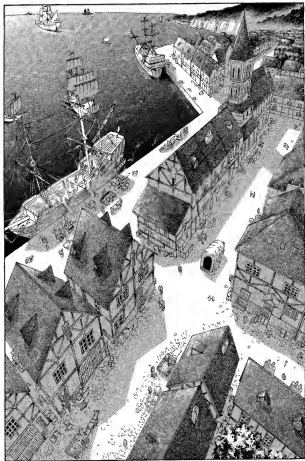
LUCIA...

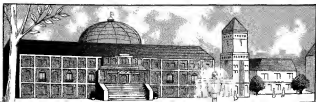


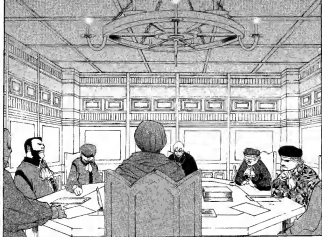


HUGO...
PLEASE, COME
BACK ALIVE!











YOU LOSING
YOUR
NERVES?!

WHAT
ARE YOU
KNIGHTS
GOOD
FOR?!



WE
DON'T
BELIEVE
THAT THIS
IS THE
RIGHT
TIME.



ON THE
OTHER
HAND,
IT'S NOT
A GOOD
TACTIC TO
MAKE TWO
COUNTRIES
INTO
ENEMIES
AT ONCE.



BUT IF HE DO
THAT, THE
HARMONIANS'
NEXT TARGET
WILL BE US.



WE
SHOULD
JUST SIT
BACK AND
WATCH
THEM
DIE!!

NO WAY!!
WHY WOULD
HE EVER
JOIN FORCES
WITH THOSE
BARBARIANS?



DON'T
HE NEED
TO RE-
EXAMINE
OUR
POSITION
AS AN
ENEMY
OF THE
GRASS-
LANDS?

MAYBE HE
CAN WORK
OUT OUR
DIFFERENCES
AGAINST THE
HARMONIAN
THREAT.





THAT JERK!
JUST WHAT
THE HECK IS
HE DOING?
WHY WON'T
HE SEND
IN THE
KNIGHTS?

SALOME
HAS BEEN
VERY QUIET
ABOUT ALL
THIS.



I
HAVEN'T
SEEN
CHRIS, THE
KNIGHTS'
CAPTAIN, AT
ALL.
WHERE IS
SHE, AND
WHAT IS
SHE UP
TO?

SOME SAY
HE'S BEEN
SNOOPING
AROUND,
SPYING
ON HIS
SUPERIORS.



WE
NEEDN'T
WORRY.
THERE'S NO
WAY THEY
CAN MOVE
AGAINST US
WITHOUT PROOF.



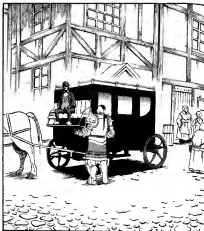
YOU THINK
THEY'RE
LOOKING
INTO THE
SECRET
AGREEMENT
WITH THE
HARMO-
NANS?



BE CAREFUL
WHAT YOU
SAY!
ANYONE
MIGHT BE
LISTENING!

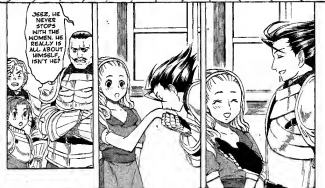
SHE!!





JUST AS I
THOUGHT, HE
SAYS HE'S
BROUGHT
COUNCILMAN
GUINNESS TO
COUNCILMAN
PAULO'S
HOUSE MANY
TIMES...







SUCH AS—
SHE SAW COUNCILMAN
JOHANN
BURNING
A LETTER
THAT WAS
WRITTEN IN
HARMONIAN.

THAT WOMAN IS
COUNCIL-
MAN
JOHANN'S
GRAND-
DAUGHTER
SHE TOLD
ME A LOT
OF INTER-
ESTING
THINGS.



WHAT DO
YOU THINK
YOU'RE
DOING—
FLIRTING
WITH GIRLS
WHILE ON A
MISSION?



ONE BY
ONE,
WE'VE
BEEN
ABLE TO
FIND OUT
WHICH
OF THE
COUNCIL-
MEN
HAVE HAD
CONTACT
WITH HARMO-
NIA.

WE'RE
GETTING
CLOSE TO
REACHING
OUR
TARGET.



JEEZ...
YOU'RE A
SHREWD
ONE,
AREN'T
YOU?



IF
WE DON'T
STRIKE THE
HARMONIAN
ARMY SOON
WE'LL LOSE
ANY CHANCE
OF BEING
ABLE TO
BOUNCE
BACK!

THEN,
WHY
DON'T
WE ACT?!



THE
DEFEAT
OF THE
GRASS-
LANDS.



WHAT ON
EARTH
ARE YOU
WAITING
FOR?!



IT'S
STILL
TOO
EARLY.



SOUNDS
LIKE YOU
HAVE AN
ULTERIOR
MOTIVE,
SIR
SALOME.



?!



ONCE THEY
HAVE BEEN
BEATEN SO
BAPLY THAT
THERE IS
NO TRACE
LEFT OF THE
ANTAGONISTIC
SENTIMENT
THEY'VE BEEN
FEELING FOR
SO MANY
YEARS--
ONLY THEN
SHOULD WE
UNITE
WITH THEM.

EVEN IF WE
WERE TO
STRIKE UP
AN ALLIANCE,
UNLESS WE
WERE ON THE
SAME PAGE,
IT WOULD BE
MEANING-
LESS.

IDEALLY,
WE WOULD
HELP OUT THE
GRASSLANDS
AND REPEL
THE
HARMONIAN'S.
IN REALITY,
THERE'S NO
WAY THE
GRASS-
LANDERS
WOULD
ACCEPT OUR
HELP.



THERE
ARE
OTHER
REASONS
FOR NOT
GOING.



I'M JUST
AFRAID
THAT BY
DOING IT
YOUR WAY,
IF OUR
TIMING
IS OFF,
BOTH OUR
COUNTRIES
WILL
BE DE-
STROYED.



WE HAVE
TO MAKE
SURE OUR
BACKS
ARE
CLEAR.

IF WE
WERE
ATTACKED
FROM
BEHIND,
WE'D
HAVE NO
CHANCE.



ONCE THAT
HAPPENED,
THE COUNCIL
WOULD
BE IN THE
CLEAR TO
CAPITULATE
WITH
HARMONIA.

IF WE
SET OUT
NOW, OUR
SUPPLIES
WOULD BE
CUT OFF.
WE'D BE
QUICKLY
FLANKED IN
A Pincer
ATTACK
BY THE
HARMONIANS
AND THE
GRASS-
LANDERS--
AND WE'D BE
COMPLETELY
WIPED OUT.

...
TRAITORS
WHO
WOULD
SELL
ZEXEN TO
HARMONIA
IN
EXCHANGE
FOR
PERSONAL
GAIN.

AND
I'VE SAID
BEFORE,
THERE
ARE
SPIES
INSIDE
THE
COUNCIL
...



IS THE
COUNCIL
THAT
INFECTED?!!



AND THE
TRAITOROUS
COUNCILMEN
WOULD BE
REWARDED
WITH HIGH
POSITIONS
AND LONG
LIVES.

WITHOUT
THE
KNIGHTS,
EVEN THE
CITIZENS
WILL TO
RESIST
WOULD BE
SERIOUSLY
WEAKENED...



EVERY
ONE
LOOKS
OUT
FOR HIM-
SELF.

HOW
COULD
THEY LIVE,
BEING
TREATED
HELL,
WHILE THE
ZEKEN
PEOPLE
BECAME
THE SLAVES
KNOWN AS
"SECON-
D-RATE
CITIZENS"?!

DON'T
THEY
KNOW
HOW
HARMO-
NIANS
HANDLE
THOSE
THEY
HAVE
CON-
QUERED?

IF THAT
HAPPENED--
WHAT WOULD
BECOME
OF THE
PEOPLE?!



THIS COUNCIL IS A FESTERING WOUND. BEFORE LADY CHRIS RETURNS, WE SHALL LET OUT THE PUS.



WE CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN. THEREFORE, WE NEED TO INVESTIGATE MORE, BASED ON SIR NASH'S INFORMATION.

WE MUST GATHER AND PREPARE THE PROPER EVIDENCE.



WE'RE GOING TO DO IT, AREN'T WE? A COUP D'ETAT?



EVEN IF
OUR SIDE
WERE NOT
PURELY
JUST--

--DO WE
KNIGHTS
DO
MERELY
AS WE ARE
ORDERED
AND
PLEDGE
LOYALTY
TO THE
COUNCIL?





EVEN IF
LATER OUR
COUP IS
CRITICIZED,
WE CAN'T
LET OUR
PEOPLE
BECOME
HARMONIA'S
SLAVES.

NO
MATTER
OUR
ORDERS,
THE
ONES TO
WHOM WE
PLEDGE
OUR
LOYALTY
ARE THE
PEOPLE
OF
ZEXEN.

NO.

WE
ZEXEN KNIGHTS
EXIST TO
PROTECT THE
ZEXEN PEOPLE.







BUDENHAC CASTLE? A MAN NAMED THOMAS IS LORD OF THAT CASTLE RIGHT NOW, ISN'T HE?



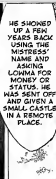
TO BE MADE LORD OF THIS CASTLE WOULD BE A WELCOME PROMOTION, WOULD IT NOT?

THERE'S A CASTLE IN THE NORTH... WHAT WAS IT...

THAT'S RIGHT, BUDENHAC CASTLE. I'VE BEEN GIVEN THE SEAT OF THIS CASTLE TO HAND OVER.



LOWMA WANTED TO AVOID ANY TROUBLE OVER SUCH A STUPID THING.



HE SHOWED UP A FEW YEARS BACK USING THE MISTRESS' NAME AND ASKING LOWMA FOR MONEY OR STATUS. HE WAS SENT OFF AND GIVEN A SMALL CASTLE IN A REMOTE PLACE.



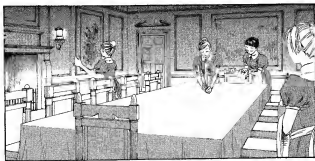
YES, HE'S REALLY THE SON OF CHIEF COUNCILMAN LOWMA'S MISTRESS.



SOON ENOUGH, LOWMA WILL STAGE A TRIAL TO DISINHERIT HIM AND STRIP HIM OF HIS STATUS AS CASTLE LORD, SO IT'S AS GOOD AS YOURS.

HOWEVER, THAT GRANTING OF THE CASTLE WAS ONLY A VERBAL AGREEMENT, AFTER ALL. IT'S NOT LIKE HE HAS ANY ACTUAL PROOF HE HAS LOWMA'S SON, OR ANYTHING.









WHAT
ARE
YOU
DOING?!





OUR LAND
IS NOW A
BATTLE-
GROUND AND
WE WOULD
LIKE YOUR
HELP IN
DETAINING
THOSE
WHO MIGHT
ATTEMPT TO
HINDER THE
HARMONY OF
THE KNIGHTS!

UNDER
THE
ORDERS
OF THE
COUNCIL,
WE
KNIGHTS
HAVE
COM-
MENCED
THE
DEFENSE
OF OUR
HOME-
LAND!



WHAT!
WHERE'S
YOUR
PROOF?



YOU
DAMNED
KNIGHTS!
ARE YOU
INSANE?



CLEARLY,
SOME
OF THE
COUNCIL-
MEN ARE
HAVING
SECRET
RELATIONS
WITH
HARMONIA.
THEY
ARE A
HINDRANCE
TO OUR
DEFENSE.



THE
PROOF
IS RIGHT
HERE.

UNTIL
FURTHER
NOTICE,
THE ENTIRE
COUNCIL WILL
BE UNDER
INVESTIGATION
AND WILL HAVE
TO FOLLOW
OUR ORDERS.

IF
YOU DON'T
CALL THESE
ENEMY
ACTIONS,
WHAT ARE
THEY?

WE
PERFORMED
A SEARCH OF
COUNCILMAN
JOHANN'S
MANSION
AND FOUND
VARIOUS
DOCUMENTS.



THE
COUNCIL
SHOULD
FIX ITS
OWN
PROBLEMS.

WELL--
WELL,
LET'S GO
ALONG
WITH THE
KNIGHTS.

YOU SAY
THERE'S A
SPY FOR
HARMONIA!

THIS IS
IMPOSSIBLE!
THE KNIGHTS
ARE
OVERSTEPPING
THEIR
BOUNDARIES!!



ABSO-
LUTELY.

YOU
BASTARDS!!
DO YOU
THINK THE
PEOPLE
WILL ALLOW
YOU TO
VIOLATE THE
SANCTITY OF
THE ZEXEN
COUNCIL?!



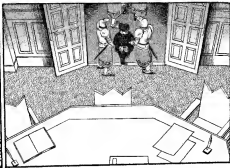
SURELY,
I HAD
BURNED
ALL OF
THOSE
DOCU-
MENTS!



IF
WE FELL
UNDER THE
HAMMER OF
HARMONIA,
WHAT
POWER
WOULD THE
COUNCIL
HAVE THEN?

THE
COUNCIL
ONLY
EXISTS TO
SERVE THE
ZEXEN
LORDS AND
THE ZEXEN
PEOPLE.







PERCIVAL!
SIR LEO!
WHERE
HAVE YOU
BEEN?



WE WERE
ON AN
ERRAND
FOR SIR
SALOME.

HMP
OH, WE
JUST
WENT TO
CASTLE
RUDEHUC
FOR A
DIFFERENT
MATTER.



ALL
RIGHT,
THEN--
SHALL
WE GO?



THIS IS
WHERE
WE FIND
OUT WHAT
THE TRUE
VALUE
OF A
KNIGHT IS.

GOOD!
BECAUSE
IT'S TIME
TO DO
OR DIE.



?

SEEMS
LIKE
WE'RE ALL
TOGETHER
NOW.



**TO
BATTLE!!**

The bellfires will burn all to ashes:
the plains, the castles, and...

Seikoden III
— The Successor of Fate —
Continued in Vol. 6

Suikoden III
--The Successor of Fate--
Afterword

"The Birth of the 27 True Rimes"

In the beginning, there was Darkness.
The Darkness lived for a long, long time.

The Darkness suffered from loneliness
for too long a time,
so finally a Tear dropped.

From the Tear were born two brothers.
They were the Sword and the Shield.

The Sword said that it could cut through anything,
and the Shield replied that it would not allow anything to be
wounded.

And so, the two began fighting.
The fighting lasted for 7 days and 7 nights.

The Sword slashed through the Shield,
and the Shield shattered the Sword.
The Sword's fragments rained down and became the sky,
and the Shield's fragments rained down and became the earth.
The sparks of the fight became the stars.

And so, the 27 precious gems decorating
the Sword and Shield became the 27 True Rimes,
and they began to move the world.

BUDEHUC CASTLE

A small castle in the Zexen Commonwealth. The world-kind it belongs to is not known, but it is a low-level castle.



CASTLE LORD THOMAS

ENEMIES

THE ZEXEN COMMONWEALTH

A country on the sea, with great trade and prosperous business. The Council that is comprised of the powerful barons guild members holds governing power.



KNIGHT CAPTAIN CHRIS AND THE ZEXEN KNIGHTS

THE MARKED RINPOU AND THEIR FORM AND INTENTIONS ARE UNKNOWN.



THE KARAYAN BOY HUGO

Formerly prisoner in the Raze Chamber. The True Fire Raze. Interested in Raze.

ALMA KINAN

A village of abandoned by the enemy.

Destroyed by War. Built on the Water Road.

THE TRUE WATER ROAD

THE GRASSLANDS

Variety of clans, with their own unique cultures, live in harmony. The six most powerful clans are called the Six Clans.



KARAYAN VILLAGE

Hugo's hometown, built above the Zexen.

INVASION

FRANK, THE INSECT SOLDIER

LEBUQUE

Once part of the Grasslands, after their defeat, they have left the area, and are now in the hands of the enemy.

THE HARMONIAN DEFENSE FORCE, 10TH UNIT

The True Lightning Raze

Formed by Gaiden

HOLY HARMONIA

A great country, proud of its advanced culture and long history. The clergy holds strong power.

THE STRATEGIST ALBERT

THE TRUE LIGHTNING RAZE

Formed by Albert

The Reckoning Route of the Five Powers

The True Wind Road



I can't seem to get caught up and back on schedule. I feel like I'm just apologizing every time, but I truly am sorry that the fifth volume is late, too!

Anyway, about the background, this time, I've decided to try and draw it with a Harmonian Theme. I'm sure there are a lot of people who think, "Huh? Why that character?" Well, there are characters I've decided to do more than once, so...

Also, this was planned to be seven volumes in all, but because of various happenings, it seems like it'll take more than that. When I finished the layouts for the second volume, I had a feeling like, "Oh, this is going to take more than seven volumes." I guess that's true, after all. Now, I can say without any difficulty that there is not yet any set number of volumes.

I'll be putting you readers through a lot of trouble, but, hopefully I can keep you wanting to follow it. The next issue will be about our parent and child.

Well, see you!

--Aki Shimizu



Suikoden

幻想水滸伝

The Fire Bringers may not age,
but that doesn't mean they're
immortal...and next volume will
prove it. Geddoe's group heads
toward Chisha and the Duck Clan
village to meet the Grasslanders...

but the Grasslanders are
being pursued by the
mighty Harmonian army!

Meanwhile, Wyall /
Jimba faces off with
the Masked Bishop
as Chris Lightfellow
and Nash continue their
search. Will Chris find her
father...or just his remains?

